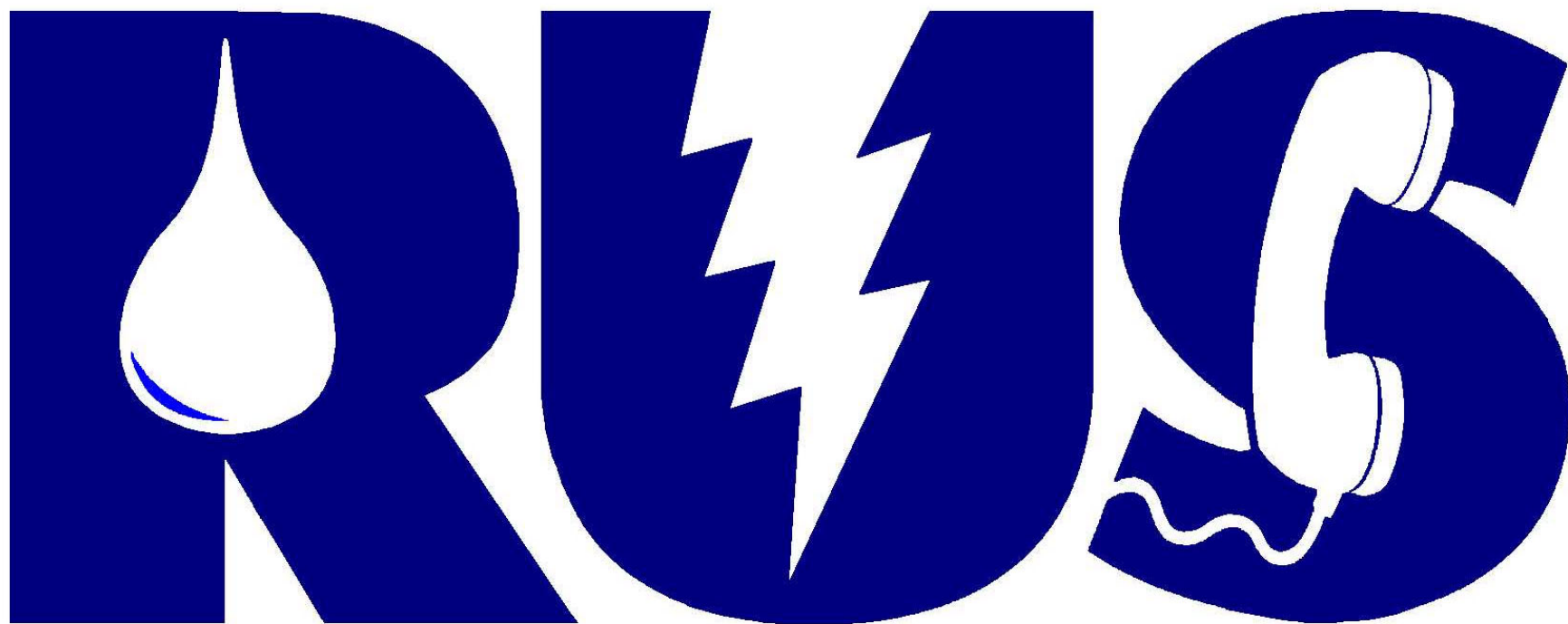


Connecting Rural America



Distance Learning & Telemedicine

Grant and Loan Program

Presented by

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Rural Utilities Service

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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Program Purpose

The Distance Learning & Telemedicine Program is designed to encourage and improve distance learning and telemedicine services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies.



Program Eligibility

- Be delivering or proposing to deliver distance learning or telemedicine services
- Be legally organized: for profits, not for profits, local units of governments, Indian tribes/tribal organizations
- RUS electric or telecommunications borrowers are eligible for loans only

Distance Learning Projects

- **K-12 schools:**
 - Connecting to other schools to share teaching resources
 - Hooking up to instructional programming providers to obtain additional courses
 - Offering community residents GED courses
- **Community Colleges/Universities**
 - Linking with high schools to offer advanced placement courses
 - Linking with other campuses to share resources
 - Linking with health care facilities to provide continuing education courses

Telemedicine Projects

- Clinics and hospitals linking together for teleradiology services
- Clinics and hospitals linking to medical specialists
- Visiting Nurses Association providing home health monitoring
- Mobile health units and ambulances linking to clinics and hospitals

Rurality Requirement

To Qualify for the DLT Program . . .

A project must meet a minimum eligibility of 20 points based on a rurality calculation that determines the extent to which a project serves rural areas.



Rurality Requirement Calculation & Considerations

- **Each end-user site will receive points. The final score is the average score for all end-user sites included in the project.**
- **If the hub is utilized as an end-user site & hub – the hub must be included as one of the end-user sites for the rurality calculation.**
- **A project's rurality calculation must be based on the 2000 U.S. Census data.**

Rurality Calculation Table

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| • Exceptionally Rural
(population 5,000 or less) | 45 points |
| • Rural Area
(population: 5,001 - 10,000) | 30 points |
| • Mid-Rural Area
(population: 10,001 - 20,000) | 15 points |
| • Urban Area | 0 points |



Grant Program

FY 2002

- **205 applications received**
- **166 eligible reviewed**
- **71 grants awarded totaling more than \$27 million**
- **46 Educational & 25 Medical Projects**
- **33 States Benefited**



DLT Grant Program

FY 2003

- **Application Window**
 - **Opened on March 3, 2003**
 - **Closes on May 2, 2003**
- **Competitive Application Process**
- **15% Required Matching Contribution**
- **\$50,000 Minimum/\$500,000 Maximum**



Grant Eligible Purposes

- **Acquiring (lease or purchase) eligible equipment. Eligible equipment means:**
 - computer hardware and software
 - audio or video equipment
 - computer network components
 - telecommunications terminal equipment
 - data terminal equipment
 - inside wiring
 - interactive video equipment
- **Acquiring instructional programming**



Combination Loan-Grant Program

Eligible Purposes:

- All Grant Purposes**
- Medical or Educational equipment and facilities**
- Acquiring telecommunications transmission facilities**
- Site development and alteration of buildings**
- Land, buildings, or building construction**



Loan Program

Eligible Purposes:

- All Grant and Loan/Grant Combination Purposes
- Eligible recurring or operating expenses incurred during the first 2 years of operation
 - Excludes salaries and administrative expenses--
- All costs needed to provide distance learning broadcasting to rural areas



Combination Loan-Grant & Loan Programs

- **Applications Accepted Year-Round**
- **Applications Processed on a First-Come/
First-Served Basis**
- **No Matching contribution**
- **\$50,000 Minimum/\$10,000,000 Maximum**



Loan Program

Loan Characteristics:

- Up to 10 years based on the security provided and economic life of the facilities financed
- Interest Rates based on Cost of Money to the US Treasury
 - Yields on Treasury Securities at Constant Maturity
 - <http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/H15/update>



Rural Utilities Service - Distance Learning Telemedicine Program - Netscape

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United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Utilities Services

USDA

Rural Development RUS Electric Telecommunications Water

Telecom Home

Contact Staff

Distance Learning & Telemedicine

Latest Initiatives

List of Materials

Publications

Rural Telephone Bank

Telecom Act Issues

Telecom Web Sites

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Program

2002 Grant Application Guide | 2002 Loan & Combination Application Guide
 DLT Highlights | DLT Resources | 2001 Press Release | DLT Success Stories
 DLT FAQs | 2001 Loan & Grant Awards | DLT Awards - Previous Years

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program (DLT) is designed specifically to meet the educational and health care needs of rural America. Through loans, grants, and loan and grant combinations, advanced telecommunications technologies provide enhanced learning and health care opportunities for rural residents.

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Application Guide

The Rural Utilities Service publishes the Notice of Application Filing Deadline for grant applications for the FY 2002 Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program. The DLT Program is designed to provide financing to meet the educational and health care needs of rural America. The recent changes to the grant program were finalized and are included in

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/2001win.htm>

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Website Address:

www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm

DLT Office Telephone Number:

(202) 720-0413